

EXHIBIT A RECEIVED
CENTRAL FAX CENTER

Attorney Docket No. 2000.16

PATENT SEP 18 2006

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Runkle, et al

Art Unit: 1732

Serial No. 09/851,242

Examiner: S. Staicovici

Filed: May 8, 2001

For: HOLLOW FIBER MEMBRANE CONTACTOR
AND METHOD FOR MAKING SAMEDECLARATION UNDER RULE 132

I, Charles J. Runkle, declare:

1. I am a named inventor in the above captioned application.
2. I am also a named inventor in U.S. Patent Numbers 5,186,832 (Mancusi et al) and 5,284,584 (Huang et al) cited against the above captioned application.
3. In the instant application, Paper No. 6, page 4, paragraph 9, and page 6, paragraph 12, the Examiner states:
"..., it should be noted that Mancusi et al ('832) specifically teach potting of the tube-sheets to the interior of the housing (see col. 9, lines 22-27)."
4. The Examiner's interpretation of that portion of Mancusi et al is incorrect.

5. The portion of Mancusi et al cited by the Examiner states:

"After the bundle is installed in the housing, the tube sheet(s) is (are) sealed to the interior of the housing, to positively prevent fluid flow between the shell side and the lumen side without passage through the membrane."

6. That portion does not refer to "potting the structure and the shell together."

7. That portion refers to the use of o-rings to form a seal.

8. The portion of Mancusi et al cited by the Examiner and set out in Paragraph 5 above appears in Huang et al at column 9, lines 11-16.

9. Therein, it is stated that the "bundle" is "sealed" to the "housing."

10. In that passage, "sealed" refers to the use of o-rings.

11. At Huang et al, column 21, lines 58-61 and Figure 6, it is shown that "sealing" refers to o-rings.

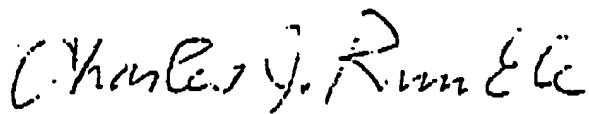
I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and that these statements were made

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with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

Respectfully submitted,



Charles J. Runkle

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